



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,165	04/08/2004	Wilfried Rachse	H 5416 PCT/US	1267

55495 7590 11/30/2005

DANN DORFMAN HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
1601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 2400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

DOUYON, LORNA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/821,165	Applicant(s) RAEHSE ET AL.	
	Examiner Lorna M. Douyon	Art Unit 1751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46, 53, 54 and 73-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46, 53-54, 73-93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1751

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on September 2, 2005.
2. Claims 1-46, 53-54, 73-93 are pending.
3. The objection to claims 4-6 for minor informalities is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
4. The rejection of claims 56-72 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
5. The rejection of claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heile et al. (US Patent No. 5,759,988) is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
6. The rejection of claims 1-46, 53-54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huff (US Patent No. 6,040,286) is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
7. Claims 1-46, 53-54 and 73-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber et al. (WO 02/06431), hereinafter "Weber" (US 2004/0029764 being used as the English translation) for the reasons set forth in the previous office action.

Art Unit: 1751

8. Claims 1-15, 36-46, 54, 74-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The limitation “uncoated preparation” in independent claim 1, line 2 is nowhere supported in the specification and is considered as new matter.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicants' arguments filed September 2, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the obviousness rejection based upon Weber, Applicants argue that the “dimensionally stable hollow body” of Weber is “self-supporting” and “shaped”, i.e., is not deformable by a small force, let alone returned toward its original shape when the force ceases whereas Applicants' claimed enclosure is not self-supporting and shaped, in that its shape deforms by application of a small amount of force.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the above arguments because in section [0033] on page 3, Weber defines the term "dimensionally stable hollow body" which is understood in accordance with the invention to mean that the shaped bodies containing the detergent portions have an intrinsic dimensional stability which enables them, under normal conditions of production, storage, transit, and handling by the consumer, to have a structure which is stable toward fracture and/or pressure and which does not collapse, and which also does not change under said conditions over prolonged periods of time. In section [0034] Weber also teaches the

Art Unit: 1751

hollow bodies used in accordance with the invention are fundamentally different from films or pouches such as are likewise used to provide detergents wherein these films or pouches collapse even under a pressure which is only slightly below atmospheric pressure. In section [0557] on page 43, Weber teaches the appropriate materials for the hollow body such as polyacrylamides, oxazoline polymers, polystyrenesulfonates and polyurethanes which are the same materials used as enclosures in the present claims. Hence, the hollow body of Weber should also have a deformability characteristic within those recited.

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1751

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lorna M. Douyon
Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751